

Random Notes and Gleanings.

A LITERARY FIND.—A literary "find" of some historical interest is reported from Dublin.

ART SALES.—There has been a great deal written of late years about the spurious objects of art pawned off upon wealthy strangers in Italy.

A BEAUTIFUL MISSAL.—One of the most notable contributions to a branch of ecclesiastical art comparatively neglected nowadays—that is the art of book illustration—was furnished by the missal prepared for the Pope's use during the Gregorian celebrations.

MARY ANDERSON.—Last week we made mention of the former actress, Mary Anderson, having declined to return to the stage, even to give readings for charitable purposes.

tions of a stage life by other players who had neither her force of character nor her opportunities to resist evil or to practice her religion.

ETIQUETTE IN ROME.—No more exact axiom than "In Rome do as Rome does." That is to say, in Rome, or in any other place, it is common politeness and a mark of ordinary education and good breeding to conform to the customs of the place.

"A young Englishman occupying the position of tutor in the family of one of the Ambassadors accredited to King Victor Emmanuel, was present at a Papal audience, and when the Holy Father approached declined to kneel (as is, of course, customary), but remained standing, looking, it must be confessed, extremely foolish and uncomfortable.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE.—We have remarked many scores of times of late how frequently Protestant clergymen, especially in the United States, are complaining about the meagre church attendance in their various parishes.

"Some Protestants stay away from church because, although earnest and pious and attached to the church and members of it, they are overworked, and Sunday is to them a day of rest, there being no definite, strict obligation for them to go, as there is upon Catholics to hear Mass. Moreover, there is no definite sanctity in the church service; a Protestant can read his Bible and pray at home; it is essentially the same thing. The main thing which brings them to church is the preaching; if that is edifying and ministers to their spiritual welfare, or is even interesting, the church is well attended. But some of the more spiritually minded do not go because they are not benefited. They recognize in the minister nothing authoritative, do not depend upon him because he is a minister. It is only if he has special gifts that he is depended upon.

This is the sum and substance of the whole affair. In another place in this issue we publish a most interesting treatise on this very subject of the Bible, and its disappearing influence among Protestants.

WITH THE SCIENTISTS, CHURCH AND BIBLE.

TYPHOID PREVENTION.—In a recent address, Dr. Victor C. Vaughn, the well known chemist of the University of Michigan, estimated the annual loss in United States due to typhoid fever at \$50,000,000, says the Messengee Monthly Magazine.

Our government is not behindhand in hunting up precautions, for only two or three days ago came the news from Washington that the Agricultural Department will soon issue a bulletin of water purification and especially of a newly found "preventive," a solution of copper sulphate, of great efficiency in destroying typhoid bacillus.

The preface to the bulletin says: "The fact that these extremely dilute solutions (1 to 100,000) will also destroy the most virulent typhoid and cholera bacteria at ordinary temperatures in three hours, is of great importance and significance. Solutions of copper much stronger than this are not considered injurious to man or other animals. The value of copper in preventing or treating typhoid and other related diseases should be carefully investigated by competent pathologists."

The ease with which the copper sulphate can be eliminated after the destruction of the germs seems to offer a practical method of sterilizing large bodies of water. The employment of the sulphate solution is not designed to supplant efficient preventive measures now in use. And, moreover, it is a precaution to be handled by experts.

The following passage is worthy of a special note: "We desire it distinctly understood that so far as bacterial contamination of water is concerned, the methods here proposed are not to take the place of, but are simply to supplement, the standard methods of filtration; neither can too much stress be laid upon the importance of the consumer boiling water to be used for drinking purposes when taken from a contaminated source."

A DISASTER AVERTED.

A dangerous fire, which for some time threatened to destroy St. Peter's Church, Ft. Wayne, was discovered by chance shortly after the services, on Sunday. A number of children had been confirmed, and the vestments and candles used in the service were carried to a room in the rear of the Church. Evidently one of the candles still smoldered, as in a few moments the entire room was ablaze.

INSECTS AND CROPS.

A dozen insects will cost the United States this year millions of dollars. The estimates, says an American journal, which are conservative, are as follows:

Table listing insects and their estimated damage: Cinchbug \$100,000,000; Grasshopper 90,000,000; Hessian fly 50,000,000; Potato bug 8,000,000; San Jose scale 10,000,000; Grain Weevil 10,000,000; Apple Worm 10,000,000; Army worm 10,000,000; Cabbage worm 5,000,000; Boll weevil (cotton) 20,000,000; Boll worm (cotton) 25,000,000; Cotton worm 25,000,000. Total \$358,000,000.

LOVE AND SACRIFICE.

Love is best shown in sacrifice, and blossoms sweetest in the white garments of purity.

Rev. Father William O'B. Pardon, S.J., in a recent sermon in New York on the subject of the Church and the Bible, pointed out in a most telling and conclusive manner how the sects are discarding it page by page and the critics are tearing it to shreds.

Then comes the following passage which will deserve careful perusal and serious meditation.

A COMPARISON.—"A few persons have the time to examine thoroughly what they read, however. This inundation of so-called criticism has had the effect in some minds of weakening their faith. These men resemble the captain of a vessel crossing the ocean under stress of weather. A moment comes when the order is passed down to the sailors to toss the cargo into the sea so as to save the ship and passengers. In like manner men and women who have been taught from childhood to love and reverence every word of the Bible, have recently been compelled, at least so they say, by stress of adverse criticism, to sacrifice now this chapter of the Holy Book, now that, in order to save at least some shreds of the supposed word of God.

"The Sermon on the Mount is enough for me,—let all the rest go overboard," says one. "The fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man are sufficient for me," says another; "I give up all else." But the Catholic Church is not like the timid captain of the ocean steamer. The words spoken by our Divine Founder 2000 years ago are ever ringing in her ears, "Why are you timid, ye of little faith?" She hears him say to his trembling apostles in the midst of the storm, "The heavens and the earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away." So the Catholic Church tears out no page, no chapter of the Bible—throws overboard not a single verse.

LUTHER'S FAILURE.—"But what a change has come over the non-Catholic world since the days of Luther! Luther's grievance against the Church was that it kept the Bible, the Word of God, from the people. So he said, and his battle-cry, as he rose in rebellion against the Church, was, 'The Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible!' But what most ardent admirer of Luther would dare to raise that battle-cry to-day? The only defender of the whole Bible now is the Catholic Church. A few years ago a Protestant minister in one of our New York churches, seeing how the Bible was slipping from the fingers and from the hearts of his congregation, read from the pulpit the encyclical of Pope Leo XIII. in defence of the Scriptures as the word of God. Martin Luther must have turned in his grave! In many who attack the Bible in this age one is pained to note a great want of fair dealing. They seem afraid to fight under their real colors. Thus while tearing out page after page of the great book they insist that they are not attacking the Bible at all, nor criticising it, but only trying to see it as it is. The man who is doing all in his power to reduce the Bible to the level of ordinary literature to remove it from its pedestal apart from all other books and simply to place it on the ordinary shelves of our libraries alongside of Homer, Dante and Shakespeare—that man, whatever his hollow professions may be, is attacking the Bible with all his might and main."

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.—Here now is the reverse of the medal in all its truthfulness. Father Pardon thus closes:

"The explanation of the Bible's power in the civilizing of the human race is precisely that it was ever considered to be the word of God. Thus saith the Lord 'is what always gave the sterling ring to the Scriptures. But if any one reduces the Bible to the rank of mere human literature, as so many are now striving to do, if any one makes its stories and its

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS.

A GLEANING BY "CRUX."

It is now three centuries since Mary Queen of Scots, the unfortunate victim of Queen Elizabeth, paid with her life the penalty of her being a Catholic and a target for numerous misfortunes. Since that day a certain class of historians have never ceased to portray her as a scheming woman who sought to undermine the English Queen's power and to ruin the so-called established church. For generations, by dint of being reiterated, these false estimates of Mary's character have been accepted as true. But, in consequence of the painstaking researches of conscientious writers, a light finally began to break on the subject, and to-day the whole fabric of falsehood, constructed around the life of Mary Stuart, has crumbled, and her grand figure stands erect, beautiful and justified, upon the ruins of that falacious structure.

YOUTH AND HAPPINESS.—"History tells us that this unfortunate queen was born at Linlithgow Palace in 1542, a year of deepest gloom in the history of her country. The clouds of bigotry, dissension and revolution were hanging menacingly over the Scottish realm. The country was filled by discontented and ambitious nobles, who openly refused to recognize the rights of their infant queen. Her father died while she was a babe in the cradle, leaving her an orphan at that early age, which marked the beginning of her sorrows. It was thought that this would have a tendency to soften the hearts of her enemies. It is evident that it did not, for they still continued to plot, and the life of Scotland's Queen was in daily peril.

"During this turbulent state of affairs Mary was solemnly declared Queen of Scotland and crowned at Stirling. This dignity indeed only brought her forty long years of sufferings, sighs and tears. With the crowning of Mary things took a more alarming aspect; and, it was considered necessary to send the queen to some friendly court. Accordingly she was brought to the Court of France, where she was received in a manner becoming her dignity. At this court, she was brought up and educated. When she reached the age of seventeen she was married to the Dauphin of France. The following year, Henry of France lost his life in tournament; and the Dauphin and Mary ascended the throne. Unfortunately their reign and happiness were doomed to be of short duration. Scarcely had two years elapsed since their marriage when Francis died, leaving her an orphan and a widow."

WOES AND VICISSITUDES.—"In the midst of her new sorrow the distress to which Scotland was reduced by so-called 'reformers' weighed heavily on her mind. Never-

theless in the year 1561 she set sail for the land of her fathers. The journey was a hazardous one, for the queen of England had sent ships to intercept her voyage. Baffled by a heavy mist she escaped the snares laid for her capture by the 'Good Queen Bess.' When Mary reached Scotland well might she have felt saddened by the gloomy and hostile attitude of her subjects, for they showed her little welcome. She was hardly seated on the throne of her ancestors when she was made a prisoner of the very nobles whom she had saved from banishment and death. Several times she was imprisoned in castles of her kingdom. Even those in whom she had placed explicit confidence proved false to her. In her hour of need her own relations proved traitors. Loyal and straightforward as she was, the confidence she placed in those in any way related to her, was always cruelly abused. In these trying circumstances a plot was designed and executed in which her own husband, Lord Darnley, was the prime factor; the murder of her private secretary, David Rizzio. This plunged Mary into profound grief, the more so for he was murdered in her very presence and the murderers offered every insult to Mary herself. This was only the precursor of a more heinous crime. Those who had helped Darnley to assassinate Rizzio now turned against him. Not long after the murder of Rizzio, Darnley was assassinated and the rumor connected the name of the queen with the crime. This charge famous historians have proven to be utterly false, stating that 'Mary in her very nature shrinks from any act of cruelty however small.' However, her ungrateful subjects in their frenzy forced her to abdicate. Mary now became as she herself said, "a queen without a throne."

TRIAL AND DEATH.—"In this her heart-rending trial Mary resolved to throw herself upon the mercy of the Queen of England. This was the most fatal step of her life for could she have foreseen the trials, baffled hopes and weary captivity which lay stretched out before her, she might well have applied to that country Dante's famous line, "Leave every hope, ye who enter here." It is unnecessary to mention what safety one might expect to find in their own kith and kin; but let us see how Mary's simple trust was betrayed. Instead of being received as became her rank and relationship, Mary became, the instant she entered, the presence of Elizabeth, a prisoner. See her who ruled over the countries of Scotland and France sentenced and doomed through the jealousy of her cousin, to a weird dungeon of an English tower. Now commenced a series of political intrigues which ended in the death of Mary. For nineteen years she was deprived of air and sunshine. For nineteen years she was not allowed even the consolation of those who were near and dear to her. The trials and humiliations to which the Queen of Scotland was subjected, whilst in her English dungeon, may never be known; but it is natural to suppose that she suffered untold agonies at the hands of her English enemies. Still these years were only dark days for a much darker hour. After a farce trial in which Mary was charged as being the instigator of a plot against Elizabeth's life, she was condemned to death, and after nineteen long years' imprisonment Mary was executed."

CONSCIENCE.—"God delights in joy; it is one of the most certain means to secure his favors. But in order to rejoice in the Lord the soul must be purified, for the joy which pleases God must be that of a good conscience.

LIFE.

Anybody who enters upon life with the idea that he can attain anything without labor or pain will be sadly deceived. Since the fall of our first parents it has been the lot of man to earn his bread in the sweat of his brow. If there is anything worth having it is worth working for, and if it is not worth our efforts it eventually will not be worthy of our attention.

THE TEMPERANCE

Reverend James M. article in the June Catholic World Magazine the temperance movement at length. We reproduce introductory paragraphs: "At the beginning of the century Justin McCarty follows in the Independent to learn that the new King is to see a important effort made in some legislation the cause of temperance was, no doubt, following paragraph speech to the first Parliament assembled after his throne: 'Legislation pared, and if the time posal should prove to will be laid before you vented of drunkenness houses or public places plicit promise of temper has to some extent been as it is but one phase awakening that augurs cause of sobriety, it nterest to consider the of the liquor question and review some of the portant steps that ha to remedy the deplorable English society due to About twenty-five years Farrar declared that sin of England is drunken national curse of England. And those who are in know the true state of England to-day reitera ment. Notwithstanding put forth during these the conditions of the have not as yet be aroused to an apprecia dangers that beset the this evil. The chains forged by the task-mas on the slaves of intern become more galling ye threaten to destroy th nation itself. The vict grading habit are alm ensnared in the meshes woven with consummatl minal craving that can tu be banished from th and low, rich and poo peasant, have fallen vi imperious sway; and years of persevering, t fort to banish from th people this spectre of f that has gorged itself blood of so many of daughters of once mer The struggle again evil is destined to be fiercely waged one, fo has at its command a ed resources. King A ed wrested without a c perhaps, England has n even in the days when threatened her very ext